



CITY of NORTHAMPTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

 **ORIGINAL**

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Department of Public Health
Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
250 Washington Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: RFR 301822

Mr. Stanton,

The City of Northampton is pleased to submit an application to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) for the Hampshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative Project.

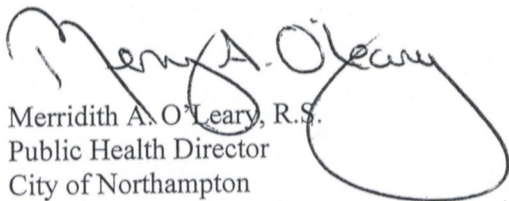
The Hampshire Opioid Prevention Collaborative Project will foster an already existing network of local Boards of Health, medical providers, educational facilities, social service agencies, community organizers and other stakeholders in Hampshire County who share the goal of creating sustainable policies, programs and practices needed to change community ideas and expectations regarding opioid use and abuse, as well as to reduce the morbidity and mortality rates.

A strong collaboration is proposed in the application that includes active participation of seven communities, three of which are a recognized Public Health District, two regional hospitals, two established drug free coalitions, two substance abuse treatment facilities and several law enforcement agencies. This collaboration is built on key community organizations that have strong track records combating drug abuse, experience with implementation of the Strategic Prevention Framework and will help to expand the work to other parts of the County as well as include all sectors of the population.

Opioid abuse and misuse is a problem that is increasing in magnitude and severity in Hampshire County. With collaboration of the key community organizations and support from MDPH BSAS, the Hampshire Opioid Prevention Collaborative Project will help combat this epidemic through integration of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model into overall prevention systems, to ensure a consistent data-driven planning process focused on implementing effective and sustainable strategies and interventions.

Please contact me at moleary@northamptonma.gov or (413)587-1214 if you are in need of anything further.

Sincerely,


Merridith A. O'Leary, R.S.
Public Health Director
City of Northampton

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